

Message Text

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41
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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:COCECIL:CEJ
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

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----- 121733

R 041528Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMCONSUL DHRAHAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, XF

SUBJECT: VISIT BY HARPERS MAGAZINE JOURNALIST PETER ISEMAN

1. PETER ISEMAN, JOURNALIST, HAS BEEN CONTRACTED BY HARPERS MAGAZINE TO WRITE A 12,000 WORD COVER STORY BASED ON A THREE-MONTH TRIP HE PLANS TO TAKE THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA, OMAN, THE UAE, QATAR, BAHRAIN, AND KUWAIT. MR. ISEMAN HOPES TO BEGIN IN SAUDI ARABIA SHORTLY AFTER RAMADAN, AND TO SPEND SIX WEEKS IN THE KINGDOM, VISITING NOT ONLY THE MAIN CITIES BUT ALSO SOME REGIONAL CENTERS SUCH AS ABHA. HE HAS APPLIED FOR VISA AT SAUDI EMBASSY, BUT EMBASSY IS AWAITING OK OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. WHILE MR. ISEMAN HAS REQUESTED NOTHING OTHER THAN A VISA, HARPERS HAS WRITTEN SAG EMBASSY EXPRESSING HOPE HE WILL OBTAIN "SUFFICIENT COOPERATION AND ACCESS." ISEMAN SPEAKS SOME ARABIC, HAVING SPENT A YEAR AT MECAS. HE HAS VISITED UNCLASSIFIED

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FOURTEEN ARAB COUNTRIES OVER LAST FOUR YEARS AND SPENT

TWO DAYS IN JIDDA IN MAY 1974.

2. ISEMAN HOPES TO LEAVE US ON SEPTEMBER 13. REQUEST
EMBASSY CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION AND URGE THAT THEY GIVE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO
ISEMAN'S REQUEST. ROBINSON

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